

# MRS. HALL AND 2 BROTHERS FREED BY JURY OF MRS. MILLS'S MURDER

## Simpson, Bitter In Summing Up, Assails Widow

By JACK MILEY  
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Dec. 3.—The trial of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and her brothers, Willie and Henry, ended this afternoon in an acquittal of all three defendants.

The jury, which retired at 1.46 p. m., deliberated only a short time before reaching the verdict which absolves the trio from any guilt in the killing of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills.

It was a tense moment for everybody when the jury filed back into the courtroom and the clerk asked the foreman if a verdict had been reached.

"We find the defendants not guilty," was the trite retort, and the month-old trial had come to a close.

Mrs. Hall and her brothers, who had listened to the verdict with their customary calmness, were immediately surrounded by beaming relatives and friends, overjoyed at their vindication.

### Simpson's Address Short

The last day of the trial moved along rapidly. Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson took only two hours for his summation and Justice Charles W. Parker about half that time for his charge. As the jury retired, Simpson, apparently realizing the outcome, left for his office in Jersey City. He frankly admitted he did not expect a conviction, but said he hoped for a disagreement.

### Summation Typical

The summation of Simpson was typical of the man. He mingled crackling invectives with Biblical quotations, and seemed particularly vindictive in dealing with Mrs. Hall.

In a voice which came to the widow as vitriol on old wounds, he painted her as a wealthy woman

(Continued on Page 4)

## His Jury Plea Sarcastic



SENATOR SIMPSON, in what is expected to be his "farewell appearance" in Somerville, today brought his dramatic performance to a climax by pointing the well known accusing finger at the Halls in his summation before the jury.

## Rodgers Pleads Guilty In Face of Life Sentence

John (Bum) Rodgers, clean-shaven and sullen, today withdrew his plea of not guilty to a charge of violating the Sullivan law by having a revolver in his room at 4274 3d Ave., when he was surrounded and arrested Thanksgiving Day. He was arraigned in Bronx County Court before Judge Barrett.

### EDISON'S SON WORSE

WILMINGTON, DEL., Dec. 3 (By U. P.).—William L. Edison, son of Thomas A. Edison, electrical genius, has suffered a slight relapse after an operation from which he appeared to be recovering.

He said he had decided to plead guilty and "get it over with."

"You know what you are doing?" asked Judge Barrett.

"Sure," was the reply. "Only, judge—could I have until Tuesday until you sentence me?"

"Adjourned until Tuesday," responded the judge.

At that time Rodgers, having pleaded guilty to a fourth felony, will, under the Baumes law, go to prison for life as a habitual criminal.

James Pacifico and Helen Ger-showitz, charged with harboring Rodgers at the 3d Avenue address, were released in \$5,000 bail each for further hearing December 10.



Bum Rodgers

### TO OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

The GRAPHIC regrets that owing to lack of space it is compelled to omit twenty columns of advertising as well as the daily True Story from today's issue. See editorial on page 48.

## REDS CAPTURE FOOCOW, U. S. SHIPS ON GUARD

LONDON, Dec. 3 (By U. P.).—A dispatch to the Daily News from Shanghai today reported that the city of Foochow, where American and Japanese destroyers have been dispatched to protect the foreign population, had been captured by the Nationalist army from Canton.

## Don't Judge All Preachers By Hall, Dr. Straton Asks

By REV. JOHN ROACH STRATON, D. D.

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Among the many letters that have come in commenting upon this series of articles on the Hall-Mills case, one thoughtful citizen has written asking me to explain how the masses can keep their faith and believe in God. His Apostles—the pastors or priests, the very men to whom the people look up—do such things as evidently were done in this case.

## Say Girl, 18, Stole Mother's \$9,000, Fled With Boy, 15

A youthful infatuation, the skillful theft of between \$7,000 and \$9,000 by an 18-year-old girl, and an alleged elopement were revealed today when parents reported to the Missing Persons Bureau the disappearance of Mildred Senta, 18, of 237 Kent St., Brooklyn, and John Boris, 15, of 202 Kent St., Brooklyn.

The pair went away November 23, both at about the same hour. Previous to their departure detectives say they have discovered the girl bought clothing for herself and the boy.

Mildred is said to have taken the \$9,000, her mother's money, before she left. She had for some months acted as agent for her mother, who couldn't write, at a Greenpoint bank, made out withdrawal slips, got her mother to put her fingerprint on them and then had drawn out the money deposited by her mother for Mildred's six brothers. The looting started last January, detectives say, and ended on the day of the disappearance when Mildred raised a \$200 withdrawal slip to \$2,200, deposited it in her own account and then withdrew most of it later.

Detectives believe the couple went to Florida together.

## ILL DEMOCRATIC CHIEF IS SLIGHTLY IMPROVED

The condition of Election Commissioner James Kane was reportedly slightly improved today in his home at 195 Congress St., Brooklyn. Mr. Kane, the oldest Democratic leader in Brooklyn, has been ill for a long time. He is 86.

This writer then asks the following question:—

"Who, as a thinking man, will have anything to do with any pastor or any church after such happenings? I for one will NOT, and this may be an answer to the question: 'Why do people leave the church?' Should I send my boy to Sunday school in care of such a lot of hypocrites? I guess not."

### Practice Not Universal

As to the question of this letter about how people can keep faith if their spiritual leaders—the very ones to whom they are taught to look up—themselves fail them, bending beneath them like broken reeds and themselves falling into the morass of immorality, the answer is that if such things were universal or even predominant among spiritual leaders the masses should NOT look up to them but should utterly repudiate them and seek some other means for moral and spiritual guidance.

The second question, however, is answered by the answer to the first—namely,

that this writers premises are wrong. He is judging an entire class because of the failure of a few. This is manifestly both foolish and extremely unjust.

I think I know the preachers of America perhaps as well as any other man in the country, and while I know that there are undoubtedly cases of transgression, and while I am frank to admit that often ecclesiastical machines cover up wrongdoing on the part of preachers because they imagine that to really handle an evil situation bravely would bring "reproach upon the cause," nevertheless I gladly bear my testimony that the

(Continued on Page 34)

## Shoots Estranged Wife, Rushes to Police in Taxi

Shortly before noon today Lt. Joseph Ryan of E 51st Street police station, looked up from his desk as a disheveled man rushed in, drew a .32 caliber revolver from his pocket, placed it on the desk and cried:—

"Get a doctor, quick. I've just shot my wife!"

Hysterically he told his story. His name was Paul Sheitter, 37. He lives at 1539 Richmond Place, North Bergen, N. J., with his daughter, Helen, 7. For two years he had been separated from his wife, Olga, 30, part owner of a restaurant at 1148 2d Ave., New York. He had made repeated appeals for his wife to return to him and Helen.

Today he went to make one last appeal, he said, and his wife refused. Then, in a daze, he says, according to the police, he shot her. When he could not revive

her he took a taxi to the police station.

Meantime neighbors had hurried the woman to Reception Hospital, where she later identified her assailant. She is in a serious condition.

Sheitter is held at East 67th Street station.

## Clearing House

(Official figures)

Exchanges	\$941,000,000
Balances	106,000,000
Credit balance	103,000,000

## Plan Autopsy on Slain Girl As Cops Hunt Sweetheart

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WIS., Dec. 3 (By U. P.).—The body of 23-year-old Clara Olson, whose father's vision that she was dead, "In a grave, buried on her face," became grimly true yesterday, was to be the subject of an autopsy late today.

Clara's body was taken from a shallow grave thirty-five miles from here, following her disappearance on September 10.

Erdman Olson, the girl's 18-year-old sweetheart, has been charged with her murder, and is being sought.

Inability of Dr. C. H. Bunting, state pathologist, to lease Madison caused a hurried change in plans for the autopsy. Officials will attempt to proceed, employing local physicians.